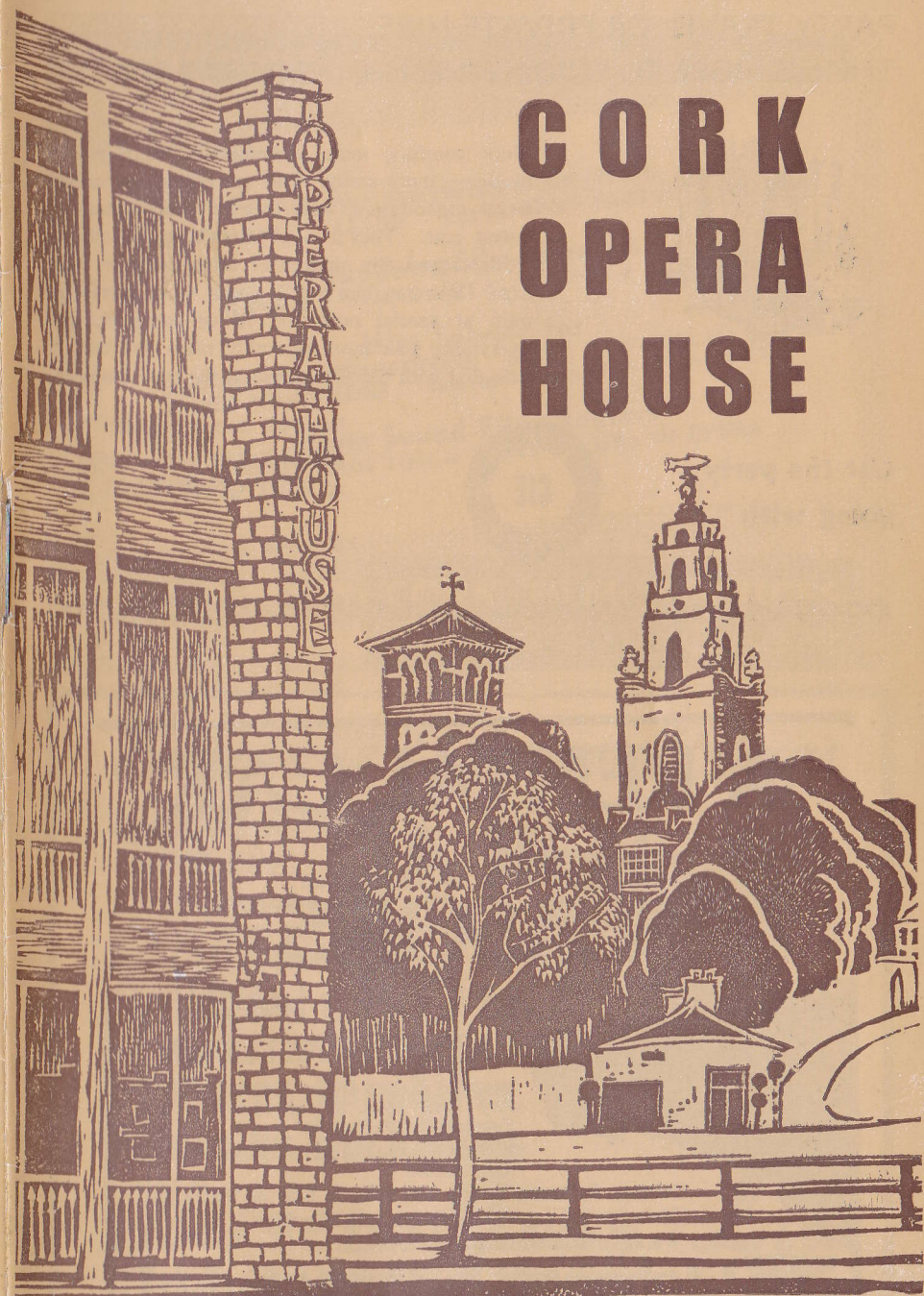
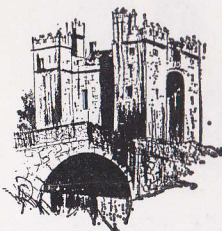


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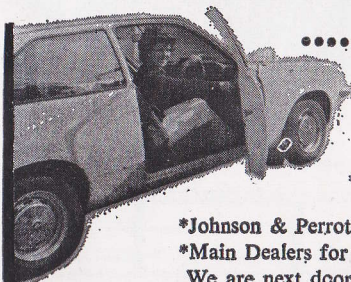


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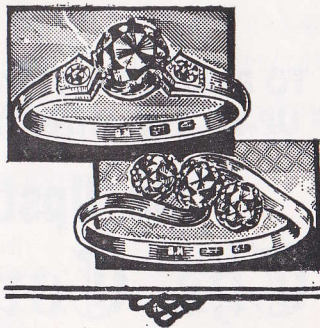
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SEASON OPENS SUNDAY, 6th MAY, 1979

Wednesday, 9th May Saturday, 12th May 8.00 p.m.

CORK OPERA HOUSE

in association with

THE DUBLIN GRAND OPERA SOCIETY

present

"TOSCA"

by GIACOMO PUCCINI (1858 - 1924)

Libretto by Giuseppe Giacosa and Luigi Illica from the play by Sardou

First performed at Constanzi Theatre, Rome, 14th January, 1900

THE CAST (in order of appearance)

CESARE ANGELOTTI (an escaped political prisoner)	BRENDAN KEYES
THE SACRISTAN	PETER McBRIEN
MARIO CAVARADOSSI (a painter)	ERNESTO VERONELLI
FLORIA TOSCA (a celebrated singer)	LORENZA CANEPA
BARON SCARPIA (Chief of Police)	ATTILIO D'ORAZI
SPOLETTA (a police agent)	BRENDAN CAVANAGH
SCIARRONE (a gendarme)	FRANK O'BRIEN
SHEPHERD BOY	DYMPNA CARNEY
GAOLER	LUCIANO PECCHIA

A Cardinal, a Judge, Roberti (an executioner), a Scribe, an Officer,
a Sergeant, Soldiers, Police agents, Ladies, Noblemen, Citizens

SYNOPSIS OF SCENERY

Rome, 17th June, 1800

ACT ONE

The Church of Sant' Andrea della Valle — morning

Interval

ACT TWO

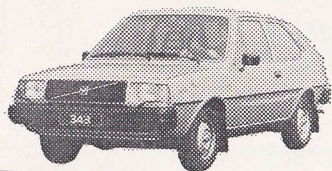
Scarpia's headquarters in the Farnese Palace — later the same day

Interval

ACT THREE

The battlements of the Castel Sant' Angelo — dawn the following day

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THE STORY OF THE OPERA . . .

"TOSCA" (PUCCINI)

FLORIA TOSCA, a singer, and Mario Cavaradossi, a painter, love each other. For having helped a political fugitive, Angelotti, to escape, Mario falls in the clutches of Baron Scarpia, Chief of Police, who also aspires to Tosca. Tosca, to save Mario from further torture, reveals Angelotti's hiding place. News is brought of Bonaparte's victory at Marengo, a defeat for Scarpia. Mario exults. Scarpia orders his execution. Mario gone, Tosca pretends to yield to Scarpia, who arranges a pretended mock execution. Tosca wins from Scarpia a safe-conduct for Mario and herself. As Scarpia hands her the paper she stabs him fatally and leaves for Castel Sant' Angelo, where Mario awaits death. Tosca is admitted and instructs Mario how to act during the "mock" execution. But Scarpia has been doubly astute. He had hoped to enjoy Tosca and have his revenge on Mario. He achieves the latter, for the bullets are real. Tosca vainly calls on Mario to rise from a death which she thinks feigned. The murder of Scarpia has been discovered. His agents approach to arrest Tosca. She jumps to death from the castle parapet crying: "Scarpia, we shall meet before God!"

|| || ||

Note — The characters have some relation to real historical figures of the period. Italy was then divided. The French under Napoleon occupied the North, while Rome was held by the Royal House of Naples. The action is set in Rome on 17th June, 1800, the day of the Battle of Marengo, and on the following morning. The battle was part of Napoleon's Italian campaign, and the situation is reflected in the opera by the conflict between the Republican sympathiser, Mario Cavaradossi, and the repressive Royalist police-chief Baron Scarpia. This political hostility sharpens the conflict between the two men over Tosca.